



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 29, 2008

**FORMER BORDER PATROL AGENT ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH
CONSPIRACY TO POSSESS WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE
OVER 1000 KILOGRAMS OF MARIJUANA**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in Del Rio, federal authorities arrested a former Border Patrol agent on a federal drug distribution conspiracy charge.

A superseding indictment, returned yesterday and unsealed today, charges former Border Patrol agent Raquel Esquivel, age 24, of Del Rio, with conspiring to possess with intent to distribute over 1,000 kilograms of marijuana.

Authorities allege that from May 1, 2006, to the present, Esquivel, as a Border Patrol agent, conspired with drug trafficking organizers to provide sensitive law enforcement information to facilitate the successful smuggling of marijuana into the United States. Esquivel, who was arrested yesterday, was terminated by Border Patrol on March 21, 2008.

Upon conviction, Esquivel faces between ten years and life in federal prison.

This case was investigated by agents with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Professional Responsibility, the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Investigations, and Drug Enforcement Administration. Assistant United States Attorney Rick Bennett is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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